

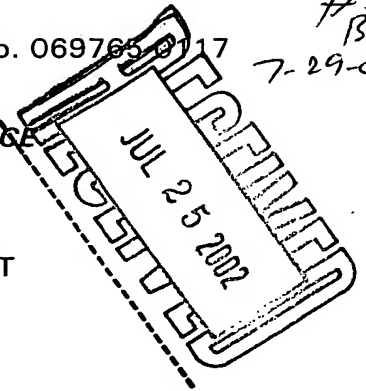


Atty. Dkt. No. 069765-0117

1741
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BT
7-29-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masato SASAKI et al.
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AN ANODIC TREATMENT
Appl. No.: 10/045,014
Filing Date: 01/15/2002
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 1741



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign search report.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The foregoing documents came to the Applicants' attention during a search of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the Examiner is attached.

An English translation of the foreign-language document is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). An English language abstract is attached.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months priority to filing of this Statement.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise

improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Date: July 19, 2002

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Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pavan K. Agarwal', is written over a horizontal line.

Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

Complete if Known

Date Submitted: July 19, 2002

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Application Number | 10/045,014 |
| Filing Date | 01/15/2002 |
| First Named Inventor | Masato SASAKI |
| Group Art Unit | 1741 |
| Examiner Name | Unassigned |
| Attorney Docket Number | 069765-0117 |

Sheet 1 of 1

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | A1 | 5,660,699 | | Saito et al. | 08/26/1997 | |
| | A2 | 5,750,014 | | Stadler et al. | 05/12/1998 | |
| | A3 | 5,843,296 | | Greenspan | 12/01/1998 | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| | A5 | "Apparatus for Anodizing a Cylindrical Aluminum Coating on a Copper Piston", IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, IBM Corp., New York, Vol. 33, No. 6A, pp. 318-319. | |
| | A6 | Buran et al., "Properties of Plasma Spray Coatings for Piston Ring Running Surfaces", Plasma Techniques Symposium, Vol. 2, pp. 25-36. | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.